

THE SYMBOLISMS OF HERALDRY

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The symbolisms of heraldry by W. Cecil Wade

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“Unto the very points and prickes, here are to be found
great misteries.”—NICHOLAS FLAMMEL, 1399.

“And if aught else great bards beside
In sage and solemn tunes have sung,
Of turneys, and of trophies hung,
Of forests, and enchantments drear,
Where more is meant than meets the ear.”

—MILTON.

15090

THE SYMBOLISMS OF
HERALDRY

OR

A TREATISE ON THE MEANINGS AND
DERIVATIONS OF ARMORIAL
BEARINGS

BY

W. CECIL WADE

"Yet my attempt is not of presumption to teache, (I myselfe having most need to be taught,) but only to the intent that gentlemen that seeke to knowe all good thinges, and wouide have an entrie into this, may not find here a thing expedient but rather a poore help thereto."—LUGN's Accedence of Armorie, London, 1576.

WITH 95 ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
GEORGE REDWAY

1898

P R E F A C E

THE *Daily News* very recently remarked, "Heraldry is almost a lost art; the very rage for old book-plates shows that it takes its rank amongst antiquities"; and though we may not agree with this writer's remarks in their entirety, certain it is that the collecting of book-plates has really helped to revive the taste for heraldic studies, and now seems to invite the publication of my researches on the subject of armorial symbols.

Besides the chief modern authorities whom I have consulted, and whose names are given in the text, I may mention the following older heraldic writers whose tomes I have examined and compared: Leigh's "Accedence of Arms," 1576; Guillim's "Heraldry," editions of 1610 and 1632, which include the chief points to be found in Juliana Berners, Bosworth, and Sir John Ferne's "Glorie of Generositie"; also Peacham's "Compleat Gentleman," 1626; Camden's "Remaines," 1623; Nisbet's

"Heraldry," 1722; Froissart's "Chronicle," translated by Lord Berners, 1525; Edmonson's "Heraldry," 1780; Dallaway's "Heraldry," 1793; Porney's "Heraldry," 1771; and Brydson's "History of Chivalry," 1786. Amongst other writers to whom I have made occasional reference is Sylvanus Morgan, from whom I have very sparingly drawn.

My aim has been to collect the most striking heraldic symbolisms, to attempt—in the spirit of the old armorists—to reconcile any contradictions as to their application, and also to suggest the probable derivation of some of the more ancient emblems, the origin of which may perhaps have been forgotten by the races or families who still display them.

W. CECIL WADE.

PLYMOUTH, *January* 1898.

“What, is it possible? Why, even my uncle reads Gwillym sometimes of a winter night. Not know the figures of heraldry? Of what could your father be thinking.”

—DIANA VERNON, in “*Rob Roy*.”

“Upon his surcoat valiant Neville bore
A *silver saltire* upon martial red ;
A *lady's sleeve* high spirited Hastings wore ;
Ferrer's his tabard with rich *Vairy* spread,
Well known in many a match before ;
A *raven* sat on Corbet's armed head ;
And Culpeper in *silver arms* enrailed,
Bore thereupon a *Bloodie Bend* engrailed ;
The noble Percie in that dreadful day
With a *Bright Crescent* in his guidhaume came ;
In his *White Cornet* Verdon doth display
A *Fret of Gules*,” &c.

—DRAYTON'S “*Barons' War*.”

